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Subject: Microsoft monopoly

As an informed consumer, I find Microsoft's corporate behavior extremely distasteful. I find Microsoft's products useful, but lacking any meaningful alternative I have no basis for comparison. Microsoft is clearly a monopoly and clearly continue to abuse their power even in the face of antitrust prosecution. Even the recent "settlement" propagates their power by placing them in a position of prominence in one of the few software markets they don't control -- our children's schools.

The development of Passport and the other components of .Net is truly alarming, given Microsoft's incompetence with security, obsession with controlling "revenue streams" and thinly veiled contempt for consumer's wishes. I plan on purchasing a new computer soon, at which point I will feel forced to wipe Windows XP from the hard drive (having paid for a license) and installing an older version of Windows, simply to safeguard my privacy and financial safety.

The best way to correct a problem like Microsoft is market forces, but the market is powerless in the face of Microsoft's influence over software developers and would-be competition. The role of the government is to protect the market from influences such as Microsoft, and I am amazed at the lack of progress on the part of Federal prosecutors. I have read excerpts from Bill Gates' testimony to Congress, in which he states that maligned Microsoft is not a monopoly and that consumers have plenty of choices. However, confronted with the breakup of his company, he then states that Microsoft is central to the entire personal computing industry; and that thwarting the company will imperil the entire industry. This, from a man who stated under oath that he does not know what "market share" is.

The DOJ needs to get busy.

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